

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact Information:

**City Council – Richard Hagan, Robert Drexel, Matt Schwartz, Leia Morrison, Andy Sovick
201 West Virginia Avenue
Gunnison, CO**

CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY SELECTS RUSS FORREST AS GUNNISON'S CITY MANAGER

GUNNISON - The City of Gunnison is pleased to announce that an agreement has been reached with Russell Forrest to become its new city manager. Russ brings extensive City management and planning experience from other mountain communities such as Snowmass and the Town of Vail, along with his recent work for Gunnison County. Russ is uniquely qualified to run the city and brings with him unparalleled experience and visionary aptitude to lead our community forward.

Russ was chosen from an initial field of 51 candidates. Six semifinalists were named, and an in depth questionnaire, as well as online video responses to a series of questions were forwarded to council.

Three finalists were chosen and were invited to participate in a three day interview process here in Gunnison. Following a dinner with council, a tour of the City, lunch with City Staff, an interview session with a citizen advisory panel, a public meet and greet, and finally one-on-one interviews with Council, Russ stood out as the Council's preferred candidate, as well as the candidate the public felt was best for the job.

"After seeing the range and caliber of the applicants, I am so impressed with Russ and look forward to the great things in store for Gunnison", said Mayor Richard Hagan.

While negotiations took some time an agreement has been reached that is acceptable to both parties. The annual compensation package agreed upon is very similar to that of our previous city manager, as well as that of our current interim city manager. After the announcement Forrest expressed his gratitude to Council for selecting him and praised the process. "It was a competitive process and I am honored to be selected. I look forward to serving the city, its staff and the community", said Russ.

The City will remove the interim title from Mark Achen's current job title and keep him on staff until Mr. Forrest is able to assume duties. Council expects that Russ will take the reign no later than September 1, 2016 but is hopeful that his tenure will begin sooner. You can stay up to date on City news by visiting our website www.cityofgunnison-co.gov, attending City Council meetings or by following us on Facebook.